

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
January 27, 2010
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Room 5-300
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois
and
Lincoln Land Training Center
130 W. Mason Street, Room 104
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Chairman Martin R. Castro

David Chang

Robert S. Enriquez

Marylee V. Freeman

Sakhawat Hussain, M.D.

Spencer Leak, Sr.

Munir Muhammad

Rozanne Ronen

Yonnie Stroger (via telephone)

Diane Viverito

Gregory Simoncini

In Springfield

Marti Baricevic

Staff

Reva Bauch

LaNade Bridges

N. Keith Chambers

Dr. Ewa I. Ewa

Michael J. Evans

Harriet Parker

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Donyelle L. Gray
Evelio Mora
Christine M. Welninski
Nicole Walker (Student Extern)

Members of Public: *None*

NOTICE:

Public meetings and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

I. Call to Order

On January 27, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Martin R. Castro called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting without the physical presence of Commissioner Stroger. Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Stroger gave notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Harriet Parker, that she would be unable to be physically present for the January 27, 2010, meeting. The Commission voted to allow Commissioner Stroger to participate in the meeting via telephone. Motion made by Commissioner Enriquez, seconded by Commissioner Freeman. Motion carried 12-0.

II. Consideration of Minutes

November 18, 2009

The minutes of the meeting of November 18, 2009, were approved as submitted by staff. Motion made by Commissioner Freeman, with a second by Commissioner Hussain. Motion carried 12-0.

III. Staff Reports

A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director

Executive Director N. Keith Chambers welcomed Martin R. Castro as the newly appointed Chairman of the Illinois Human Rights Commission. The Executive Director is currently working with Dr. Ewa regarding the submission of the FY 2011 Budget.

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Mr. Chambers stated he continues to monitor the legislature for proposed legislation which may impact the HRC. The Executive Director recently met with Mr. Rocco Claps, Executive Director of the Illinois Department of Human Rights regarding possible mutual cost-saving ventures between the two state agencies. Mr. Chambers plans to draft an inter-governmental agency agreement memorializing the Department's commitment to share its legislative liaison with the HRC.

Chairman Castro requested Mr. Chambers submit a monthly report to include the current number of cases on the docket and the number of cases that were on the docket a year earlier.

B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer

Chief Fiscal Officer ("CFO") Dr. Ewa Ewa reported the auditors have resumed their audit of the Commission after a four month hiatus. To date the auditors have raised no major issues.

Dr. Ewa Ewa stated the Office of the Governor has mandated the Commission submit an FY 2011 budget 17% less than the current (Illinois General Assembly approved) FY 2010 budget of \$ \$2,052,400. Dr. Ewa stated even factoring in the three unfilled positions; ALJ, Tech II Attorney and Administrative Assistant, the 17% cut will leave a \$250,000 deficit. Finding an additional \$250,000 to cut from the present budget is proving to be very difficult.

The Office of the Governor has been going back and forth with its proposal that state agencies, utilizing the existing agency budget, assume responsibility for all future employee pension/retirement funding. Such a mandate if issued would require a \$515,000 budgetary expenditure or approximately 30% of the Commission's current operating budget in addition to the projected 17% cut.

C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Chief Administrative Law Judge Michael Evans reported for the month of November 2009, nineteen (19) cases were filed and thirty seven (37) cases were disposed.

D. Harriet J. Parker, General Counsel

General Counsel Harriet Parker reported the Second Notice of proposed amendments to the Procedural Rules of the Human Rights Commission have been approved by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules ("JCAR"). JCAR will review the proposed amendments at its February 9, 2010, meeting in Springfield.

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The General Counsel advised the Commission that on March 15, 2010, the Office of the Secretary of State will mail out Statements of Economic Interest forms to all individuals required to file such statements. This form must be filed by May 3, 2010.

The General Counsel reported the number of Requests for Review filed from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009; three hundred seventy-seven (377) filed and two hundred forty-six (246) disposed.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Chang, with a second by Commissioner Hussain. Motion carried 12-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Parker, General Counsel